

REMARKS

Initially, it is noted that this Preliminary Amendment is in the newly approved revised format of amendments, such that a complete listing of claims is included and each section begins on a separate page of this paper.

Claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled by the foregoing amendments. Thus, Claims 2-3 and 5-12 remain pending in the present divisional patent application.

It is noted that Claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled because they are directed to an invention elected for prosecution in the parent application (i.e., U.S. Application No. 10/117, 904, filed April 8, 2002) which was recently allowed.

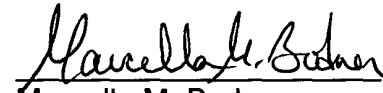
Lastly, by the foregoing amendments, the specification of the present divisional application has been amended to include the required cross-reference to related applications, whereby the present divisional application claims priority benefit from the non-provisional parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, as well as from the provisional application relied upon by the parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

In view of the foregoing remarks and explanation, it is believed that no new matter has been introduced into the present application by the foregoing amendments.

Accordingly, early and favorable action on the present application is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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